

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing replaces any and all prior listings of the claims:

1-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) A server for accepting connection requests from client terminals through a network, comprising:

a connection-order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, and in response to a refusal to grant the first connection request, sets an order of connection for said first client terminal; and

a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to said order of connection, upon receiving a second connection request from the first ~~a second~~ client terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request;

wherein the connection managing unit transmits a program to the first client in response to the refusal to grant the first connection request, wherein the first client terminal executes the program, and wherein execution of the program by the first client terminal causes the second connection request to be automatically executed again by the first client terminal after a predetermined time interval.

4. (Original) The accepting server according to Claim 3, wherein data of said order of connection set by said connection-order setting unit is transmitted to said first client terminal; and

said first client terminal is caused to display connection-order information, based on said data.

5. (Original) The accepting server according to Claim 3, further comprising a connection-number monitoring unit for monitoring a number of connectable client terminals,

wherein said connection managing unit allows connection of one of said client terminals which is highest in said order of connection, after acceptance of connection of a new client terminal has become possible, based on a number of connectable client terminals obtained by said connection-number monitoring unit.

6-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a maximum-connection-number setting counter for setting a maximum number of connections that can be connected simultaneously to the server;

a connection-number counter for indicating a number of client terminals connected to the server; and

a connectable-number counter for indicating a number of client terminals that can be connected to the server.

28. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 27, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to allow connection of one of the client terminals which is highest in the order of connection, after acceptance of connection of a new client terminal has become possible, based on the number of connectable client terminals indicated by the connectable-number counter.

29. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 28, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to allow the connection when the number of connectable client terminals indicated by the connectable-number counter is at least one.

30. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 27, further comprising:

a connection queue data holding section; and

a connection-right acquired pool section.

31. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 30, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to allow the connection when the number of connectable client terminals indicated by the connectable-number counter is at least one; and wherein the connection managing unit is configured to not allow the connection when the number of connectable client terminals indicated by the connectable-number counter is less than one.

32. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 31, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to issue a reference number to the client terminal whose connection is not allowed, the reference number indicating connection priority to the client terminal, and wherein the connection managing unit is configured to add the reference number to a connection queue in the connection queue data holding section.

33. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to Claim 32, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to send data associated with the reference number back to the client terminal.

34. (Currently amended) The accepting server according to claim 32, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to determine if there is a connection queue in the [[a]] connection queue data holding section, upon receipt of a notification to release a right of connection.

35. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to claim 34, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to decrement the number in the connection-number counter by one, in the case there is no connection queue.

36. (Previously Presented) The accepting server according to claim 34, wherein the connection managing unit is configured to transfer a reference number, highest in priority order, to the connection-right acquired pool section, in the case there is a connection queue.

37. (New) The accepting server according to claim 32, wherein the connection managing unit is further configured to issue the reference number as a cookie to the client terminal whose connection is not allowed.

38. (New) The accepting server according to claim 32, wherein a value of the predetermined time interval is determined based on the connection priority.